

# Agenda Report

September 28, 2015

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Department of Public Works

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO INSTALL ENDURING HEROES MEMORIAL  
SCULPTURE IN HONOR OF PASADENA AREA FALLEN SOLDIERS  
AT DEFENDERS PARKWAY WEST**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the activity described herein is exempt from environmental review per Section 15061 (b) (3) the General Rule. The proposed memorial will not result in any potentially significant effects to the environment; and
2. Approve the Enduring Heroes Committee's request to install the Enduring Heroes memorial sculpture in honor of Pasadena area fallen soldiers at Defenders Parkway West.

## **RECOMMENDATION OF RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION:**

On May 5, 2015, the Recreation and Parks Commission voted to table consideration of this item in order to allow more time for public comment, and to allow the Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) time to review and comment on the memorial sculpture.

### *Arts and Culture Commission Review*

On May 13, 2015, the Enduring Heroes Committee made an informational item presentation to the Arts and Culture Commission. The Commission's comments about the proposed memorial sculpture were summarized in a letter from the ACC Chairperson to the RPC Chairperson.

On September 1, 2015, the Recreation and Parks Commission voted 3 to 2 to endorse the proposal from the Enduring Heroes Committee to donate, install, and maintain a memorial sculpture in honor of Pasadena area fallen soldiers at Defenders Parkway

West. The Commission stated its concerns regarding the approval process for the Enduring Heroes project, but noted that these concerns are being addressed by the City with the adoption of the new policy. Commissioner Mrozek further stated that based upon the project's compliance with the original policy, he supports this memorial proposal.

**BACKGROUND:**

In July 2014, Dr. Shelly Lowe, a member of the Enduring Heroes Steering Committee (Committee), contacted then Mayor Bogaard regarding a proposal to donate and install a memorial sculpture in honor of Pasadena area fallen soldiers who served in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. The Committee initially proposed installing this memorial in Centennial Square across from City Hall. The City suggested an alternate location, Memorial Park. The Committee indicated an interest in identifying an alternate location. The City recommended another location Defenders Parkway West, as a possible location for their proposed memorial.

In November 2014, the Committee met onsite with Department of Public Works staff to discuss the placement of the proposed memorial at Defenders Parkway West. The Committee identified and expressed support for the location included in the current proposal. At this meeting, City staff emphasized the importance of the Committee's need to conduct community outreach and that it is their responsibility to garner citywide support for their proposal. In February 2015, the Committee submitted a letter of intent to the Department of Public Works which outlined the preliminary details of the memorial sculpture and their commitment to fund the entire project (Attachment A). This document was reviewed by staff from the Departments of Public Works and the Planning and Community Development. City staff met with the Enduring Heroes Committee in March 2015 to discuss their letter of intent and provide comments and suggestions accordingly. Subsequent to this meeting, the Enduring Heroes Committee submitted a formal proposal to donate, install, and maintain a memorial sculpture at Defenders Parkway West in April 2015 (Attachment B).

The attached proposal dated April 21, 2015, from the Enduring Heroes Memorial Committee requests that a memorial sculpture be placed at Defenders Parkway West to honor the greater Pasadena area's fallen soldiers who have battled in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. The proposed Enduring Heroes Memorial Sculpture will honor soldiers from Pasadena, Altadena, La Canada-Flintridge, San Marino, and South Pasadena.

The Committee proposes to install an eight feet, ten inches tall bronze sculpture of a soldier carrying the American flag on the east side of Defenders Parkway West. This unique memorial will be designed by noted sculptor and Pasadena resident, Christopher Slatoff. Design features of this memorial include a pedestal which will serve as a seating area for viewers and memorial inscriptions for the fallen soldiers.

The Enduring Heroes Memorial will be located approximately 25 feet from the corner of Colorado Blvd. and Orange Grove Blvd., and approximately 15 feet in front of the landmark oak tree and it will not interfere with any Tournament of Roses Parade seating or staging. The Committee will provide funding for all costs associated with the construction, installation, and on-going maintenance of this memorial sculpture.

*Recreation and Parks Commission Review and Advisory Body Comment*

At the May 5, 2015 Recreation and Parks Commission meeting, the Department of Public Works presented a proposal to locate the Enduring Heroes Memorial at Defender's Parkway West. (Attachment F) At this meeting, City staff presented its recommendation to endorse the proposal as it is in conformance with the City's Public Park and Recreational Facility Monument Policy (Attachment D). The Enduring Heroes Committee made a detailed presentation about its proposal and its significance to the Pasadena community at large.

After public comment and commissioner discussion, the Recreation and Parks Commission voted to table the item in order to allow more time for public comment, and to allow the Arts and Culture Commission time to review and comment on the memorial sculpture.

On May 13, 2015, the Committee gave an informational presentation to the Arts and Culture Commission about the proposed memorial. The City's Public Art Program focuses on two areas, new private development and City construction projects. Prior to the City Council's adoption of the Public Memorial Policy, the Arts and Culture Commission's purview did not formally extend to monuments, memorials, or similar exhibits proposed by community organizations. Therefore, a formal review and approval could not be provided by this advisory body (Attachment G). However, the Arts and Culture Commission provided feedback on the proposal during the meeting and the Chairperson of the Arts and Culture Commission sent a letter which summarized comments made by the Arts and Culture Commission at their May 13 meeting to the Chairperson of the Recreation and Parks Commission (Attachment H).

Since May 2015, the following three actions occurred:

1. The Enduring Heroes Committee modified the memorial sculpture based on feedback received from the Recreation and Parks Commission.
  - a. The beret was removed to better represent a universal military figure.
  - b. The flag was moved closer to the figure in an effort to address any safety concerns.
2. A Public Monument Policy was adopted by the City Council on August 31, 2015.
3. The City Council confirmed that the proposal for the Enduring Heroes Memorial will be subject to the previously existing Public Park and Recreational Facility Park Monument Policy.

At the September 1, 2015 Recreation and Parks Commission meeting, the Department of Public Works presented the events since May 2015 (Attachment I), and the Enduring Heroes Committee verbally presented its revisions to the memorial sculpture. After public comment and commissioner discussion, the Recreation and Parks Commission voted (3-2) to endorse the proposal from the Enduring Heroes Committee to donate, install, and maintain a memorial sculpture in honor of Pasadena area fallen soldiers at Defenders Parkway West.

*Public Park and Recreational Facility Park Monument Policy Consideration*

The Public Park and Recreational Facility Park Monument Policy establishes guidelines and procedures for approving and placing monuments in parks, park/recreational facilities and parkland areas. The policy criteria and how the Enduring Heroes memorial sculpture addresses each are discussed below.

<b>Policy Criteria</b>	<b>Consideration</b>
<b>Appropriateness:</b>	Other compatible memorials existing on site include a World War I memorial flagpole (Defenders Parkway East) and a granite monument dedicated to Soldiers, Sailors and Marines who served in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, and World War I.
<b>Compatibility:</b>	Internal City review has found the design concept and location to be suitable.
<b>Impact on Park Use:</b>	Located in a passive, landscaped area of the park. Will not interfere with Tournament of Roses Parade or other special events.
<b>Aesthetics:</b>	Excellent craftsmanship and attention to detail. City staff reviewed the artist's resume and viewed previous artwork.
<b>Maintenance:</b>	Applicant has committed to assuming maintenance responsibilities through the pledge to use an art conservator and establish a maintenance endowment.
<b>Safety:</b>	After City staff preliminary review of the proposal, the applicant addressed a potential safety concern by eliminating the potential sharp edges (cut out stars).

*Public Comments Received*

During the proposal evaluation process, it became apparent that the existing Public Park and Recreational Facility Monument Policy did not address two major areas of public concern.

1. The policy does not require the applicant to conduct any community outreach for its proposed memorial and site placement.
2. The proposed memorial sculpture is not subject to a competitive design process which leads to a lack of community involvement.

The feedback received since May 2015 has served as the impetus for the development of the new Public Monument Policy that was adopted by City Council on August 31, 2015.

It should be noted that under the Public Park and Recreational Facility Monument Policy, the Department of Public Works is responsible for community outreach. Since this proposed memorial exceeds the standard size of 9-inches by 12-inches, the City notified all property owners within 1,000 feet of the park of the date and time of the public review by the Recreation and Parks Commission so that public comment could be given. This procedure was followed for the May 5 and the September 1 Recreation and Parks Commission meetings through the mailing of postcards.

*Proposal Endorsement*

Based on all available information, the Department of Public Works finds that the Enduring Heroes Committee's request is consistent with established policy.

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

This request is consistent with the City's mission to be "...responsive to our entire community and consistent with our history, culture and unique character."

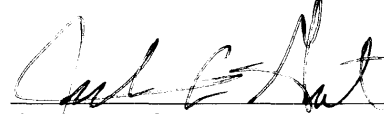
**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

The project is exempt from CEQA per Section 15061 (b)(3) (the General Rule) as the activity proposed herein would install a memorial bronze sculpture in an area that has existing site furnishings. There are no changes to the existing use of this area and the physical change is minimal. Therefore, there is no possibility that the proposed monument will cause significant environmental effects.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

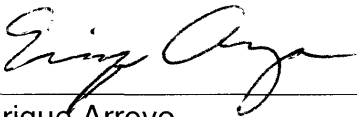
The Enduring Heroes Committee will raise the necessary funds for the construction of this project, and will establish a maintenance endowment fund to be administered by the Pasadena Community Foundation for the ongoing maintenance of this sculpture.

Respectfully submitted,



JULIE A. GUTIERREZ  
Interim Director of Public Works

Prepared by:



Enrique Arroyo  
Management Analyst

Approved by:



*for* MICHAEL J. BECK  
City Manager

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A - Enduring Heroes Letter of Intent February 2015
- Attachment B - Enduring Heroes Official Proposal April 2015
- Attachment C - Enduring Heroes Progress Report August 2015
- Attachment D - Enduring Heroes Revised Proposal September 2015
- Attachment E - Public Park and Recreational Facility Park Monument Policy
- Attachment F - May 2015 Recreation and Parks Commission Staff Report
- Attachment G - May 2013 Arts and Culture Commission Staff Report
- Attachment H - Letter from ACC Chairperson to RPC Chairperson
- Attachment I - September 2015 Recreation and Parks Commission Staff Report